

Fact Sheet

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FY 1999 BUDGET: ENSURING A SAFE, AMPLE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD SUPPLY

The President's FY 1999 budget demonstrates the Administration's continuing commitment to providing Americans with a safe and nutritious food supply. It includes an additional \$101 million to broaden the President's National Food Safety Initiative. These funds will be used to enhance food safety inspections, expand cutting-edge research, and increase foodborne disease surveillance.

The budget also acknowledges the continuing role the federal government plays in the fight against hunger, with a strong commitment to USDA's critical nutrition programs.

The spending plan:

- Provides an additional \$11 million for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to expand consumer education efforts, develop voluntary measures to reduce contamination at the farm level, and help states adopt the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems.
- Proposes \$26 million to support critically needed food safety research and education. These funds include an additional \$14 million to design effective pre- and post-harvest control programs -- and an increase of \$3 million for competitive grants to study food handling practices of vulnerable population groups and develop ways to prevent or eliminate food contamination. An increase of \$5 million is requested for extension food safety education targeted to consumers.
- Broadens the scope of the Pesticide Data Program to include microbiological testing of fruits and vegetables, providing an additional \$6.3 million to generate a baseline of data needed to assess contamination risks.
- Provides \$2 million to develop training workshops for local school food service professionals about the latest safe food handling practices and provide food safety educational materials to all school food authorities.
- Restores \$535 million to the Food Stamp Program to provide benefits to an estimated 730,000 legal immigrants.
- Fully funds the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program for an anticipated 7.5 million participants. The budget requests a \$149 million increase in the program level for WIC and an additional \$20 million contingency reserve for unexpected increases in food costs.
- Provides \$20 million for a new community-based food recovery and gleaning program.
- Proposes an additional \$3 million, a increase of 25 percent, to expand the WIC Farmers' Markets Program to additional states.

#

NOTE: USDA news releases and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov>